

I-405 - Totem Lake Freeway Station - Traffic Closures

June 2006: Northbound I-405 Lowering

What I-405 lanes and ramps will be closed, and when will they be closed?

These closures have been postponed from the previously announced June 2 - 6 dates. The project team is working to identify another suitable weekend for the work, considering not only weather but special events and other scheduled closures. The next available dates being considered are June 23-27. We'll confirm these dates soon.

Crews will close all four lanes of northbound I-405 near NE 124th Street around the clock from a Friday night to a Tuesday morning. Northbound traffic will be funneled into a narrow two-lane bypass during the closure.

Crews will also close the northbound I-405 on-ramp from eastbound NE 124th Street early on the Friday of the mainline closure. It will be closed around the clock until a few days after the mainline closure.

Why do we need to close northbound I-405 around the clock from Friday night to Tuesday morning?

We need to lower a section of northbound I-405 to ensure that all traffic has adequate vertical clearance underneath the NE 124th Street bridge. This work is important especially for semi-trucks and other large vehicles.

We'll remove the pavement on all four northbound lanes on a 920-foot-long section under the NE 124th bridge. Then we'll remove enough material to lower the freeway about three feet, and place new pavement. Engineers have determined that it will require three days of around-the-clock closures to complete this massive amount of work efficiently and safely.

Is it possible that we can complete the work and re-open the northbound I-405 mainline earlier than Tuesday morning?

The construction contract provides a financial incentive for our contractor to complete the work early and re-open the northbound lanes before the Monday afternoon commute. However, the schedule could also be affected by difficulties such as an unexpected downpour or equipment breakdowns. We will do everything we can to complete the work as quickly as possible and re-open the northbound lanes.

Why do we need to close the ramp for a longer period than we're closing the northbound mainline?

We need to close the northbound on-ramp from eastbound NE 124th early on the day of the northbound mainline closure so that crews can build connections that will allow traffic to use the ramp as a bypass around the work zone. After the mainline closure, crews will need a few days to rebuild the ramp to its final configuration.

How can I-405 users get around during these closures?

We're expecting heavy traffic backups. Please help us keep traffic moving:

- plan your trips before you go
- get [real-time traffic information](#) online
- call [5-1-1](#)
- take alternate routes (I-5, SR 202)
- share rides with family, friends, neighbors and co-workers in a [carpool or vanpool](#)
- [ride the bus](#) (new transit schedules begin the first weekend in June)
 - [King County Metro](#)
 - [Sound Transit](#)
 - [Community Transit](#)
- allow extra time
- reschedule trips
- listen to radio and watch TV traffic updates

What is WSDOT doing now and what will we do during the closures to keep traffic moving?

- Planning extensively to prepare for the work and closures
- Creating contingency plans to deal with problems that may arise
- Working with media (newspapers, radio, television) to alert drivers to the closures
- Coordinating with transit agencies so they can adjust bus routes and schedules
- Selecting a weekend with few events or few nearby highway closures
- Providing information on our highway advisory radio on I-405 in Kirkland (530 or 1520 AM) and throughout the surrounding area
- Placing informational signs in the closure area in advance and at strategic locations during the closures to encourage drivers to take alternate routes
- Completing work as quickly as possible while maintaining safety
- Providing a signed detour for the ramp closure
- Providing extra Incident Response Teams and extending hours of IRT coverage to keep the roads clear from disabled vehicles, collisions and other events that could slow traffic
- [Reporting our progress on an ongoing basis](#)

